

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /090 W

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R 250815Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7172

AMEMBASSY RABAT

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, JA, MO

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO JAPAN

SUMMARY: FIVE-DAY VISIT TO JAPAN BY MOROCCAN PRIME MINISTER AHMED OSMAN WENT SMOOTHLY. OSMAN USED OCCASION TO PRESENT MOROCCAN CASE ON SPANISH SAHARA PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY; JAPANESE TO IMPRESS HIM WITH JAPAN AND JAPANESE LINE ON PALESTINE QUESTION. OSMAN WAS GRILLED BY PRESS ON PHOSPHATE PRICES, AND PROMISED THAT SUPPLIES WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ALL COMERS AND PRICES IN FUTURE WOULD BE SET IN CONSULTATION WITH CONSUMERS. PRIME MINISTER MIKI ACCEPTED INVITATION TO VISIT MOROCCO, BUT IS UNLIKELY TO GO ANYTIME SOON. END SUMMARY.

1. MOROCCAN PRIME MINISTER AHMED OSMAN VISITED JAPAN FEBRUARY 15-20. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PRINCESS LALLA NEZHA, MINTOURISM ZEMMOURI AND TWO STATE SECRETARIES. HIGHLIGHTS OF VISIT WERE IMPERIAL AUDIENCE AND LUNCHEON, HOUR AND ONE-HALF CONVERSATION WITH PM MIKI, ONE-DAY TRIP TO KYOTO, EXCHANGES WITH JAPANESE BUSINESS LEADERS, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESS CONFERENCE.

2. PRESS REPORTS THAT OSMAN TOLD JOURNALISTS ON FEB 17 THAT ALGERIA MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN PEACE AND WAR OVER SPANISH SAHARA. HE SAID RABAT CONSIDERS THAT ANNEXATION REFLECTED HOPES OF JEMMA AND SEES NO NEED FOR REFERENDUM. HE PORTRAYED POLISARIO FRONT AS MINISCULE, UNREPRESENTATIVE AND A TOOL OF "FOREIGN POWERS." OSMAN ALSO, ACCORDING TO MOFA FIRST ME DIVDEPDIR NOBURU, OUTLINED MOROCCAN POSITION ON SAHARA TO MIKI. THERE WAS LITTLE DISCUSSION; THE GOJ DESIRES TO REMAIN IMPARTIAL AND WELL-REMOVED FROM PROBLEM, AND MOROCCANS ARE SAID TO UNDERSTAND JAPANESE POSITION. SAHARA WAS NOT MENTIONED IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE.

3. COMMUNIQUE STRESSED EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST, NOTING THAT "OSMAN APPRECIATED THE DEEP UNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF THE GOJ OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM, AND EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION." NOBURU SAYS OSMAN REPLAYED STANDARD MODERATE ARAB LINE ON PALESTINE.

4. AT PRESS CONFERENCE JAPANESE REPORTERS, AWARE THAT PHOSPHATE PRICES ROSE FOUR-FOLD IN 1973-74, HAMMERED AWAY ON MOROCCAN PHOSPHATES POLICY. OSMAN REPORTEDLY NOTED RECENT 20 PERCENT PRICE ROLLBACK AND PROMISED THAT MOROCCO WOULD ESCHEW OPEC-TYPE PHOSPHATE CARTEL. IN VIEW IMPORTANCE OF PHOSPHATES TO FOOD PRODUCTION, "MOROCCO WILL TRY TO SUPPLY THEM TO ANY COUNTRY WHICH NEEDS THE RESOURCES." FUTURE PRICES, HE REPORTEDLY ADDED, WILL BE FIXED IN CONSULTATION WITH CONSUMERS. NOBURU COMMENTED TO EMBOFF THAT AS RESULT JAPANESE DECISION TO DE-EMPHASIZE DIRTY AND ENERGY-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, JAPANESE DEMAND FOR PHOSPHATES WILL CONTINUE TO DECLINE EVEN WHEN RECESSION ENDS, SO GOJ DOES NOT CONSIDER MOROCCAN PRICING POLICIES A SIGNIFICANT BILATERAL ISSUE.

5. GOVERNMENTS EXCHANGED NOTES ON YEN LOAN FOR MOROCCAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS WHICH WAS PROMISED BY JAPAN DURING KOSAKA VISIT IN JANUARY 1974.

6. MIKI ACCEPTED OSMAN'S INVITATION TO VISIT MOROCCO AT TIME TO BE DECIDED LATER. ALTHOUGH POSSIBLE MIKI SWING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THROUGH MIDDLE EAST LATE THIS YEAR HAS LATELY BEEN MUCH BRUITED ABOUT TOKYO, NOBORU DOUBTS MOROCCO WOULD BE INCLUDED.

7. COMMENT: JAPANESE ORIGINALLY EXTENDED INVITATION TO KING HASSAN AS WELL AS OSMAN. FOR JAPANESE, SIGNIFICANCE OF VISIT LIES MAINLY IN BROADER CONTEXT OF STEPPED-UP EFFORT TO CULTIVATE MODERATE ARABS.

8. EMBASSY POUCHING COPY OF COMMUNIQUE AND PRESS CLIPPINGS
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HODGSON

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